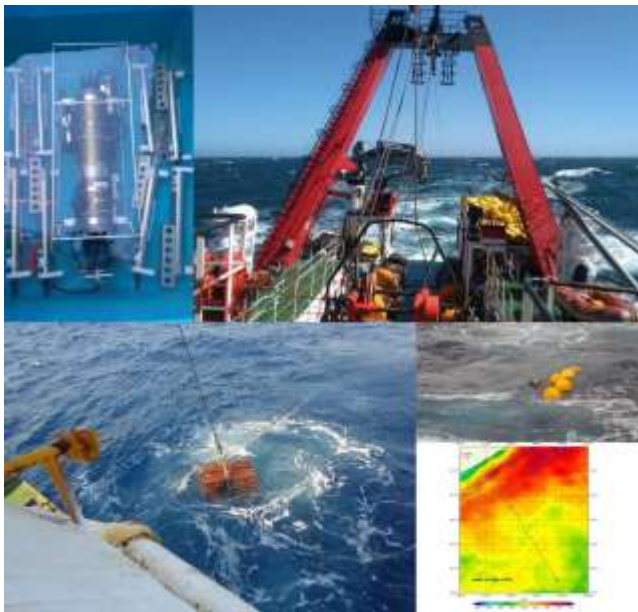


## AGULHAS SYSTEM CLIMATE ARRAY - 2016 Cruise Report



Leg 1 of the Agulhas System Climate Array ([ASCA](#)) cruise began on the 6th of April and almost immediately we sailed through rough seas for the next 2 days. However when mooring operations began the conditions had improved and the work commenced in relatively flat seas. When we

recovered the first mooring, we noticed the tail of the mooring had broken and we had lost the top float with two MicroCAT's. Hereafter operations ran very smoothly until the end of Leg 1. During the first leg we created an ice bath to calibrate the MicroCAT sensors and deployed 5 surface drifters to study the surface currents and mooring D was successfully deployed at 3600m depth.

We anchored at Port Elizabeth to changeover scientific personnel and to restock the ship. Once we began the underway current profile transect along the ASCA line, the conditions worsened; forcing all work on Legs 2 & 3 to be cancelled. *En route* back to Port Elizabeth (to get some shelter from the severe sea conditions) we still managed to complete two benthic camera stations for pictures of the deep sea floor. The Algoa RV arrived back in Cape Town on 1 May – unfortunately mission incomplete.